

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 043273

FOLLOWING REPEAT SANAA 0475 ACTION SECSTATE INFO CAIRO
ALGIERS BAGHDAD DAMASCUS KHARTOUM TRIPOLI TUNIS DTD 24 FEB

QTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANAA 0475

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, YE, EG, XI, SY, IZ

SUBJECT: YEMENI MISSION TO ARAB STATES

1. DURING FEB 23 CONVERSATION ON SEVERAL SUBJECTS (BEING REPORTED BY SEPTELS) FONMIN ABDULLAH AL-ASNAG INFORMED ME THAT YARG WILL BE DISPATCHING IN A FEW DAYS MOHAMMAD BASWAINDWA, POLITICAL ADVISOR TO THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMAND COUNCIL ON A SPECIAL MISSION TO CAIRO, TRIPOLI, TUNIS, ALGIERS, KHARTOUM, BAGHDAD AND DAMASCUS. BASWINDWA WILL BE CARRYING PERSONBT MESSAGES FROM PRESIDENT OF THE COMMAND COUNCIL IBRAHIMMIL-HAMDI TO HIS FELLOW LEADERS EXPLAINING YEMEN'S CURRENT POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SITUATION AS WELL AS SEEKING REACTIONS CONCERNING CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS IN ERITREA.

2. WITH REGARD TO FIRST PURPOSE ASNAG INDICATED THATYHARG IS CONCERNED ABOQY NEGATIVE PROPAGANDA BEING CONVEYED THROUGH SOME ARAB NEWS MEDIA ABOUT HAMDI AND THE RECENT CABINET CHANGE HERE WHICH HAS BEEN DESCRIBED BY SEVERAL BEIRUT PAPERS AS AN
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AMERICAN-SAUDI PLOT TO REINSTALL REACTIONARY FORCES IN

YEMEN. ASNAG STATED THAT BASWINDWA WILL MAKE A MABOR EFFORT TO EXPLAIN YEMEN'S UNIQUE INTERNA SITUATION WHICH REQUIRES THAT THE MODERATES AND CONSERVATIVES WORK TOGETHER IN ORDER TO AVOID POLARIZATION. ASNAG CONTINUED THAT SUCH COOPERATION IS OBVIOUSLY NOT TO THE LIKING OF THE EXTREMISTS IN THE ARAB WORLD AND IN YEMEN AND IT IS THE LATTER WHO ARE SPREADING THESE STORIES ABOUT HAMDI.

3. WITH REGARD TO SITUATION IN ERITREA, ASNAG EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT SEVERAL ARAB STATES MIGHT NOW BE TAKING POSITIONS ABOUT SITUATION THERE WITHOUT HAVING FULL INFORMATION AND ON THE BASIS OF SEEMING RSTIGIOUS SOLIDARITY. HE WAS PARTICULARLY WORRIED ABOUT POSSIBILITY THAT THE SO-CALLED ERITREA LIBERATION MOVEMENTS MAY MERELY BE STALKING HORSES EVR LNTIST EXTREMHSTS WHO ONCE IN CONTROL WILL BE UNDER THE DIRECT CONTROL OF SOVIET UNION AND WHO THEREFORE WILL POSE SERIOUS DANGER TO YEMEN AND TO SAUDI ARABIA.

4. COMMENT: ASNFJ HAS SEVERAL TIMES IN THE PAST EXPRESSED THIS CONCERN ABOUT DEVELOPMENTS IN ERITREA PUTTING THEM IN CONTEXT OF WHAT HE SEES AS CURRENT SOVIET EFFORTS TO EXPAND THEIR INFLUENCE IN RED SEA AND INDIAN OCEAN AREA. AS A FORMER ADENI LABOR UNION LEADER AND NATIONALIST HE BELIEVES HE HAS FIRST HAND KNOWLEDGE OF HOW MARXIST-LENIST MOVEMENTS INITIALLY OPERATE BEHIND THE GUISE OF NATIONALISM ONLISTO SHOW THEIR TRUE COLORS LWTER. SCOTES UNQUOTE
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